



Dept. Of Environmental Management
Commissioner's Office

NOV 03 2010

October 28, 2010

Mr. Thomas Easterly, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue, Room IGCN 1301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Commissioner Easterly:

Re: Former GM "Brownfield" Site - Manual Transmissions of Muncie (Delaware County)

We have read with great interest the news regarding clean up of many of the former GM manufacturing facilities, including the subject site located in Muncie. Energize-ECI Regional Planning District serves four counties - one of which is Delaware County, thus, we are extremely interested in this activity. We partner with the City of Muncie, Muncie Redevelopment Commission, Delaware County Redevelopment Commission, and Delaware County Economic Alliance and look forward to leveraging our collective resources with IDEM on this important community project. Our question at this time is: How can we help and/or become involved in this effort at the local level?

We are well-acquainted with the concept and the detrimental effects of brownfields. We recently submitted a Coalition grant proposal to the U.S. EPA for assessment of brownfields in our four-county area. Having worked through preparation of this proposal, identifying numerous brownfield sites and the many health- and environment-related issues, and having participated in a number of workshops specific to brownfields, we believe strongly in brownfield redevelopment. When the U.S. EPA grant is awarded in April, it is our intent to use those funds to make great strides in our area toward the eventual cleanup and transformation of these contaminated, abandoned properties into sites that will (a) enrich the lives of area residents, (b) enhance the areas for attracting new business and/or (c) ready them for appropriate reuse. Such reuse may place these properties back onto the tax rolls and aid in preventing further sprawl, thus, protecting our farmlands and greenspace.

As part of our brownfield proposal preparation, we developed an information sheet about brownfields, which has been shared with many people in our four-county area; attended and held public meetings in recent months; and submitted news releases to 12 local newspapers and 13 local radio stations. At every opportunity, we provide information about brownfields, including the need for identification, inventory, assessment and remediation, as well as the potential health and environmental hazards. Additionally, we are now developing a web site dedicated to brownfields.

At this time, however, we are offering our assistance with the Manual Transmissions of Muncie site. Please let us know how we can partner with IDEM to bring about a benchmark transformation for this brownfield. This is important to Muncie, to Delaware County, to this District and to the State. We would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,

E. Roy Budd
Executive Director

ERB/SDDC:ms

Energize-ECI Regional
Planning District, Inc.
P.O. Box 1912
Muncie, IN 47308-1912

Office: 765.254.0116
Fax: 765.254.1450
Email: contact@energize-ecirpd.org
Website: www.energize-ecirpd.org